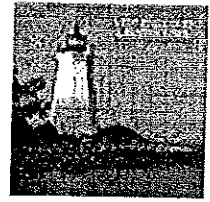


**Black Rock
NRZ, Inc.**



RE: HB 5455, "An Act Concerning Penalties For and the Investigation of the Operation of Illegal Massage Establishments"

March 15, 2012

Dear Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

The Bridgeport Black Rock NRZ enthusiastically supports Representative Auden Grogins' HB 5455 bill and urges the passage of this bill.

NRZs (Neighborhood Revitalization Zones) are formed under a State of Connecticut statute and are designed to revitalize depressed areas. The Black Rock NRZ process began in May 2007 and their Strategic Plan was accepted by the State of Connecticut and approved by the Bridgeport City Council in August 2008. The Strategic Plan was developed through numerous public meetings, interviews, surveys, research, and data analysis.

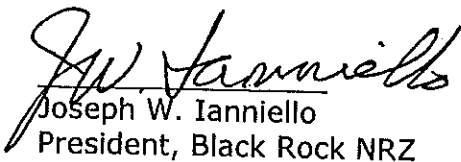
One of the major community recommendations which was heard multiple times is to, "Eliminate Inappropriate Commercial Uses". (The plan specifically refers to massage parlors and strip clubs). The Strategic Plan lists this as a major component to address in creating a successful revitalization strategy for Black Rock.

HB 5455 will provide the ability to enforce the law on massage establishments to ensure they do not evolve into inappropriate or illegal businesses. Eliminating inappropriate commercial uses will help us reach our revitalization goals; namely, to promote economic development and art and cultural venues that focus on the historic heritage of Black Rock, thereby improving the quality of life for the community.

Finally, I'd like to reiterate our support for HB 5455 and urge you to pass it.

Thank you for your work on this issue that help revitalize Connecticut's urban areas.

Respectfully yours,


Joseph W. Ianniello
President, Black Rock NRZ

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